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EXAMINER	
CHENG, W	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED:

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*and/or attached,*

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents.

Art Unit: 1505

Supplemental Examiner's Answer

MAILED

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GROUP 1500

The amendment with remarks, filed on July 30, 1997, and the supplemental reply brief, filed on July 30, 1997, have been entered and carefully considered.

The rejection of claims 10 and 15 as well as claims 11-14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn due to the amendment.

The rejection of claims 10-15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over George (EP 47009) is repeated. On page 2 of the supplemental reply brief, the appellant argued that when faced with the problem of producing a hydrophobic thickener, one of skill in the art would not look to George's hydrophilic water absorbing materials for the purpose of making a selection therefrom. However George's polymers meet the requirements of the instant claims according to the reasons on record.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.



W. C. Cheng

October 2, 1997

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